

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 NSA-01 AID-05

FEA-01 EB-08 OES-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /089 W

-----182036 096387 /44

R 181530Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3422

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 0799

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ES, TECH, PDIP, ENRG

SUBJECT: CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS CELEBRATE DAM OPENING

1. TWO OF THE FOUR INVITED REGIONAL PRESIDENTS (TORRIJOS OF PANAMA AND ODUBER OF COSTA RICA COULDN'T ATTEND) VISITED EL SALVADOR ON FEBRUARY 15 AND JOINED WITH PRESIDENT MOLINA IN THE GOES' CERRON GRANDE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT INAUGURATION. PRESIDENT'S LAUGERUD OF GUATEMALA AND SOMOZA OF NICARAGUA MET WITH REPORTERS AT THE SALVADORAN AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, TOOK PART IN THE DAM OPENING CEREMONIES, AND THEN RETURNED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. THEIR VISIT WAS MAINLY ONE OF PROTOCOL.

2. THE CERRON GRANDE DAM REPRESENTS THE CULMINATION OF 4 YEARS OF LABOE AND IS THIS ADMINISTRATION'S PRIZE ENGINEERING PROJECT, IF NOT ITS MOST SIGNIFICANT OVERALL INFRASTRUCTURE ACHIEVEMENT. IT IS PROJECTED THAT WITH THE FULL OPERATION OF THIS 4-GENERATOR UNIT DAM EL SALVADOR WILL NO LONGER BE DEPENDENT ON FOSSIL FUEL FOR ELECTRICAL POWER NEEDS.

3. SOMOZA TOLD REPORTES THAT THE NEW DAM WAS AN OBJECT OF  
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PRIDE NOT ONLY FOR EL SALVADOR BUT FOR ALL OF CENTRAL AMERICA, WHILE LAUGERUD CONGRATULATED THE SALVADORANS ON THEIR ACHIEVEMENT. TO A QUESTION DIRECTED TO HIM BY THE PRESS ABOUT THE NEW TAX CHARGED AT THE NICRAGUAN PORT OF POTOSI ON TRANSITING SALVADORAN GOODS, SOMOZA REPLIED THAT THE PORT AUTHORITIES AND NOT THE FERRY FIRM WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT FEE. HE REAFFIRMED HIS HOPE THAT A MEETING IN SAN SALVADOR NEXT WEEK BETWEEN

THE INTERESTED PARTIES WOULD PROVIDE AN "ADEQUATE SOLUTION". THE  
THREE LEADERS ALSO AGREED THAT THEY WERE AGAINST VIOLENCE AND  
ALL TYPES OF SUBVERSION.

LOZANO

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, DAMS, HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009